

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace for producing compacted ceramics, comprising:

a hood-shaped firing chamber into which a muffle can be inserted and which is closed in operation by a bottom plate, with a pneumatic cylinder being mounted on the firing chamber whose working pressure can be set by means of a pressure reducer, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two pressure reducers (9a, 9b) are each provided with different working pressure or the pressure reducer is provided in the form of a proportional pressure regulator with electronically controllable different working pressures.

2. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure reducers (9a, 9b) are arranged on a plate-like support basis (2).

3. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a pneumatic and/or electronic control unit is provided on the support basis (2) whose lines (9) and/or cabling is introduced from below into the at least one duct (8) in a guide column (6).

4. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein three pressure reducers (9a, 9b, ...) are provided which each provide a working pressure of 4, 5 and 6 bar in particular.

5. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the input or system pressure in the pneumatic line (9) is approximately 10 bar.

6. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide column (6) comprises at least two ducts (8), with lines (9) to the pneumatic cylinder (10) and electric cables being guided separated from another.

7. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the firing chamber (3) is suspended at the upper end of the guide column (6).

8. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pneumatic lines (9) are monitored by pressure sensors which are connected with an electronic control unit.

Appl. No. : **10/550,672**
I.A. Filed : **March 25, 2004**

9. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure reducers (~~9a, 9b, ...~~) or the proportional pressure regulator are coupled with a program unit, especially a memory card, in which different heating and/or compacting processes are stored.

10. (Currently Amended) A dental furnace according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein outlet slots (~~8a~~) for lines or cables are provided in the upper/lower region of a duct (~~8~~).